the Board of the company with a view to preventing the company'a affairs from being conducted in a manner which is prejudicial to the interests of the company and to the public interest, both jointly and severally.

Posts lying vacant in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

2642. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in the Departments of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas during the last three years",

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in filling up of these posts; and

(c) what are the details of the measures taken by Government to fill up these posts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) No post has been vacant for the entire duration of the last three years in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a)bove.

Price rise of medicines

2643. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2360 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th November. 1987 and state;

(A) whether it is a fact that the prices of Tetanus Antitoxin, Redoxon tablets, Ludermol Injection, Astidil tablets, Aminophylline tablets, Acit-rone tablets 4mg., Arovit injection, Arovit drops, Benadon tablets have gone up by more than 150 per cent after the announcement of DPCO, 1987; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such price hikes and what is Govenk-ment's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) Due to Government intervention, M/s Burroughs Wellcome and M/s. Serum Institute have agreed to reduce the price of Aminophyline tablets and Tetanus antitoxin respectively. As per provisions of DPCO, 1987, the manufacturers of non-scheduled formulations are free to revise the prices of their products.

Gas consumption by Power Houses in Gujarat

2644. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: SHRI JITENDRABHAI LABHSHANKER BHATT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that consumption of gas has proved to be much costlier as compared to the coal consumption by the power houses in Gujarat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the calorifict value of two tonnes of coal is equivalent to 1,000 Cu, Mt. of gas;

(c) what is the price of two tonnes of coal and that of 1000 Cu. Mt. of gas;

(d) whether Government are considering to refix the prices of gas in relation to its caloric value so as to market it comparable with the prices of coal; and

(e) whether gas from isolated wells from Gujarat is being utilised and if so, what are the market rates for the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM); (a) No, Sir.